McKean County Miner.

HARRY L. BACKUS, Editor and Proprietor. OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY TERMS: $1.25 Per Year

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CHURCH AND PARSONAGE IS BURNED.

A Disastrous Fire Friday Night Did Much Damage.

LOSS WILL AGGREGATE $20,000.

Insurance $5,000—Fire Supposed to Have Been Caused by an Overheated Furnace—Firemen Did Effective Work.

One of the most destructive fires that has occurred in this borough in years happened last Friday night and as a result two of Smethport's imposing buildings are a mass of ruins.

About 11 o'clock flames were discovered issuing from St. Elizabeth's church and an alarm was immediately turned in. The firemen responded promptly and when they reached the scene the interior of the building was a mass of flames and hope of saving the church was futile.

Work was then centered on the parsonage and with two streams at play it looked as if the firemen would save this building and undoubtedly would had not the burning steeple fallen towards the parsonage and so near that under the extreme heat the firemen could not work before it was afire. The residence of Dr. J. C. Brown was in danger but the heavy rain that was falling at the time kept the roof wet and by hard work the firemen succeeded in confining the flames to the parsonage.

The loss was large and is estimated at $20,000 with an insurance of $5,000. The fire is supposed to have been caused by an overheated furnace. While much valuable property was saved still the greater portion of the church and household goods were burned. The chalice, vestments, some linen and candlesticks were all that was rescued from the burning church. In saving the brass candlesticks Chief of Police M. J. Welch was badly burned on the right hand.

We understand that Rev. Cosgrove sustained a heavy personal loss and one that will be hard to recover.

The loss of the church and parsonage is a sad and severe blow to the congregation and priest of St. Elizabeth's, and one that will be hard to bear, but already plans are being perfected toward the erection of new and more substantial buildings. The fire coming as it did just before the Christmas festival made it look for a time as if services in commemoration of Christ's birth would have to be abandoned, but the management of the Lyceum theatre very generously donated the use of that building and services were held there at 10:30 Christmas morning.

The fire department handled the fire in an admirable manner. They responded early to the alarm and worked hard, saving a more general fire by their effective labor. Much credit is to be given Deputy Sheriff Bert McAllister for the excellent way in which the conflagration was managed. He was one of the first on the scene and directed the work of the firemen in his true veteran style.

Save Our Birds.

The Mt. Jewett Herald is conducting a vigorous crusade against foxes, skunks, weasels, wild cats and all such other animal life as preys upon our game birds and rabbits. The editor of the Herald is anxious to form an organization covering the county with the purpose in view of saving our birds, and favors an active campaign with guns and poison against the marauders.

An open letter from the State Game Commission, published in that paper, apparently puts at rest all questions as to the right or wrong of the poison route, and in addition gives much information regarding the actual destruction wrought by the animals that live by preying upon our game, insectiverous birds and rabbits.

McKean county sportsmen should inform themselves regarding this matter and take steps to protect the game.

Heimer-Heatley Nuptials.

At eleven o'clock this morning at the County Home, Rev. P. S. Calvin of the Baptist church, pronounced the words which joined in wedlock Mr. James F. Heimer of Washington, D. C., and Miss Alice Heatley of Smethport. The ceremony was a quiet one, only the immediate friends of the contracting parties being in attendance. After a short bridal tour Mr. and Mrs. Heimer will be at home in Washington, where the groom is a successful business man. Mrs. Heimer has been the nurse at the County Home for several years and has many friends who will unite with the MINER in wishing them both a long, happy and prosperous wedded life.

A universal favorite is the Universal Food Chopper. We have them, all sizes. Holmes & Gilfillan.

Ladies call at Rubin's shoe store for the Acme Cushion shoe.

Bradford Woman's Sudden Death.

Mrs. Charlotte Southwick, wife of Dr. A. H. Southwick, proprietor of the Southwick Pharmacy, Bradford, died very suddenly Monday afternoon at the Edgewood club house at Edgewood, as the result of a bursted blood vessel in her head. She was ill for only two hours, and the rupture was caused by overexertion while engaged in a bowling contest.

Mrs. Southwick was bowling a contest with two other ladies and complained of a severe headache. Finally it was seen she was seriously ill and she was taken to the club house and placed upon a couch. She became unconscious and doctors were summoned, but in spite of all their efforts she expired.

The Star says: "Mrs. Southwick was well known and very popular. She drew friends about her with an irresistible attraction. She was of a vigorous, sparkling nature, and was the life of any gathering at which she was present. She took an active part in all of the affairs of the Edgewood club, and ably assisted in any project which was undertaken. When the news of Mrs. Southwick's death was announced to her various friends it left them speechless. Sorrow and regret was expressed on every side."

The funeral was held at the Kennedy street residence and the remains were taken to Randolph, N. Y., for burial.

Mrs. Southwick was a sister-in-law of Mrs. G. W. Mitchell and Mrs. W. H. Morrison of Smethport. She is survived by her husband, one son, Felix, and a brother, Frank Van Dusen of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Important if True.

It has leaked out that the Bradford, Buffalo & Kane railroad, better known as the Bradford, Bordell & Kinzua railroad, which has been operated since since 1880, will soon be converted into a trolley line. There have been many rumors concerning the future of the little narrow gauge but it has been definitely stated by one in a position to know that the road will in the near future be purchased by a syndicate of southern capitalists headed by S. S. Bullis, the lumber king, who is well known in this vicinity, and who is now a trolley magnate in Vicksburg Miss.

A few days ago Mr. Bullis, in company with several friends, was taken over the road in Mr. Campbell's private car. He inspected the line from Bradford to Kane and Smethport. He visited all the points on the road and returned to his home in Vicksburg, Miss., the latter part of last week without making his plans known to anyone.

The B., B. & K. is one of the most picturesque routes in the county, and in fact the scenery along the line is not excelled in any part of the state and if converted into a trolley it is more than likely that it would be a profitable business. It has several good towns on its route and is really the only way to travel from Kane to Bradford and Smethport.—Bradford Herald.

The Backus Pin Setter.

We learn through a dispatch from Milwaukee that the Backus Automatic Pin Setter, which is owned and manufactured in Smethport, is likely to be adopted by the National Bowling Association and will hereafter be used in all contests under the auspices of this association. The dispatch in part says:

"The pin-setter will be tested at Terry's alleys in the near future. If it is adopted, it will shorten the games considerably and this will be a great advantage in the big tournaments where time is valuable. At a meeting of the board of directors of the Milwaukee National Bowling Tournament Company held yesterday, the new pin-setting device was discussed and it was decided to give it a thorough trial."

Judging from the way this pin-setter is striding into popularity with the best bowlers in the country as well as alley owners there is little question but what it will be adopted by the committee of the National Bowling Tournament Association. We congratulate the owner and manufacturers of this valuable patent on the bright outlook for the near future, because with the stamp of approval of this organization on their patent orders will come in faster than they can fill them.

While Sleighing is With Us.

Don't forget that E. T. Daly has a first-class line of cutters and sleighs and a few of the celebrated Waterloo cutters which he will sell at reasonable prices. Also ten sets of Michigan lumber sleighs at $40 per set, cash.

Wanted.

A number of good work teams to draw chemical wood for the Hazelton Estate. Sleighs furnished if wanted. Current prices paid. Inquire of

H. E. Linguist,
Hazelton Farm, Marvindale, Pa.

For Sale.

Desirable lot, 32x115 feet, on Main street, between Dr. Brown's office and J. W. Pickersgill's. Inquire of

JOHN BERQUIST, Hazelhurst, Pa.

Do you need any robes, blankets or bells to equip yourself for winter? If so call on Charles Lemmler. He has a line that you can be suited from and the prices are always the lowest for high grade goods.

ANCIENT HISTORY.

Happening in McKean County in Days of Old. Taken from the Files.

Mrs. Ida Harris, formerly Miss Ida Husted, of Smethport, was married to Mr. Dash Wade, of Tarport, Friday, June 8, 1877.

We are pleased to see B. L. Knapp on the street again, even though it is on crutches. He has been confined to the house by a disease in the bones of one of his limbs, requiring a terribly painful surgical operation. We hope it will effect a permanent cure. June 1877.

Stickles—In Keating township on Sunday, January 21, 1877, Effie May and George Fremont, both children of G. A. and Caroline Stickles, of diphtheria, after an illness of five and seven days respectively.

May was sick five days, aged 15 years, Fremont was sick seven days, aged 12 years. The service was remarkably affecting. The two children lay side by side in the same coffin. Together they lived; together they died; and together they will meet in heaven.

Stickles—In Keating township, on Thursday, Feb. 1, 1877, Virtue Blanche, youngest daughter of G. A. and Caroline Stickles, of membraneous croup, aged two years and nine months.

Barret—Ripley—February 4, 1877, at the residence of Mr. Swarthout, near Martinsburg, by Rev. J. S. Lytle, Mr. Cyrus Barrett to Miss Mary O. Ripley, all of Smethport, McKean County, Pa.

Died.—At Farmers Valley, March 27, 1877, in the 70th year of her age, Mrs. Rebecca Ferris, relict of the late Charles Ferris.

The deceased was one of the oldest inhabitants of this region, having removed hither with her parents in 1811, thus sharing from infancy the vicissitudes of pioneer life. She had for many years lived a christian, and at last passed peacefully away to the Land of Rest.

A second attempt was made a few evenings since to break open the store of W. J. Colegrove and Son, at Colegrove. The burglar was evidently a bungler. He succeeded in removing a pane of glass from one of the windows by hacking the sash nearly to pieces, but was probably persuaded by the "night clerk"—a vigilant watch dog—not to proceed any further, as there is no evidence of anything being taken from the store. The fellow is not likely to succeed in his chosen burglarious profession, unless he does his work better. [1877.]

W. F. Specht, of this borough, has been tendered and has accepted a situation as telegraph operator on B., N. Y. & Phila. R'y. He is stationed at the Union Depot, Olean. The appointment was a pleasant surprise to him, as he had not solicited it, and had not the least inkling of it until he received orders to report for duty. Will is not only a good operator, but is a faithful, trustworthy, and perfectly honorable and upright young man, and in every way qualified for the position. He does not need watching, and such kind of young men are scarcely ever in want of a situation. It is a deserving promotion, and we congratulate both him and the company. [April 1877.]

Considerable excitement was occasioned last week [June, 7, 1877] by the report that Mrs. Lydia Ross, wife of John Ross, of Coudersport, and daughter of W. J. Colegrove, came near being fatally poisoned through a blunder of a drug clerk. There being so many varying rumors and stories in circulation in regard to the affair, we deem it our duty in justice to all parties and the public to publish the facts in the case as given to us by Mr. Colegrove. Last Thursday forenoon Dr. S. D. Freeman gave Mrs. Ross a prescription, which was filled by the young man acting as prescription clerk at W. T. Callar's drug store. The prescription called for sixty pills, each containing one grain of extract of nux vomica. One of the pills was to be taken previous to each meal. Mrs. Ross took one of the pills (picking out one of the smallest ones) just before sitting down to dinner. Before finishing her meal she complained of feeling strangely and retired from the table to the sitting room. In a few minutes her father went in to see her and as soon as he looked at her he knew that something unusual was the matter. He helped her upon the sofa, when she immediately began to show stupor and to suffer contractions of the muscles of the neck and throat. Warm water and mustard was administered at once, followed with sweet oil, though with difficulty on account of the setting of the jaws of the patient. Vomiting was thus produced and she began to recover sensibilities. A messenger was dispatched for Dr. Freeman. He arrived at about 5 p. m., and at once declared it a clear case of poisoning. It was indeed a narrow escape for Mrs. Ross, and she has as yet not fully recovered from the effects of the poison.

We have thus stated the facts as given to us with no purpose of injuring or casting any reflection upon any one. It is one of those cases that frequently occur all over the country, and is but another chapter of the lesson that dealers in drugs cannot learn too well.

Washington Letter.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 24, 1904.

The United States will probably take full charge of the Republic of San Domingo in the not distant future. This step will be taken, not with a view to acquiring possession of the insolvent republic but with the purpose of establishing it on a sound financial and political footing, as was done with Cuba. This policy is the inevitable con-comitant of the Monroe Doctrine on which all American Presidents in recent years have so strongly insisted. Elihu Root, ex-secretary of war, in a speech made in New York recently, illustrated the incompatibility of declaring that no European power should exercise force on this continent to collect just debts, unless this country was itself prepared to compel the payment of such debts. Investigation at the State Department, prompted by Mr. Root's declaration, reveals the fact that the United States is now preparing to take entire charge of the ports of San Domingo, collect the customs, devote them to the payment of European and American creditors and will probably take temporary control of the political organization of the country with a view to establishing it on a basis which will render further interference by this country unnecessary. To this end two ports have already been seized, two more soon will be and the remaining two ports of entry will doubtless be taken possession of a little later, their receipts having been already pledged by the San Domingan government to its European creditors.

In this connection it should be authoritatively stated that the United States has no intention of taking permanent possession of San Domingo. In fact, it would not accept the Republic as a gift, although an agreement may be reached whereby the United States will acquire a coaling station on Samana Bay. The necessity of a coaling station at this point, which commands the Windward Passage to the Caribbean Sea, was appreciated as long ago as during President Grant's administration, and possession of Porto Rico and the Panama Canal strip make its acquirement doubly important. At present San Domingo is merely "farmed" by a military oligarchy which saps the vitality of the nation, maintaining a numerous army in idleness and robbing the unfortunate producer at every turn. The military forces are moreover described by a native San Domingan as "an army of Colonels with almost no privates," and they contribute to rather hinder than prevent the numerous revolutions which have been the curse of the so-called Republic."

Along about the latter part of February a fleet of American warships will make their appearance off the coast of Venezuela and their commander will ask some very pertinent questions and perhaps seize certain Venezuelan ports, unless President Castro shall perceive the error of his ways in the meantime. The Venezuelan government has seized the entire property of the New York and Bermudez Asphalt Company after a semblance of adjudication by a court selected for the purpose by Castro himself and the explanation which Mr. Castro has forwarded to the State Department of his reasons for expelling A. F. Jaurett, an American editor of Caracas, has been pronounced most unsatisfactory and President Castro has been so advised. Sixty days will be given to Mr. Castro to undo the injustice he has perpetrated, at the expiration of which time he will, in the absence of satisfactory action, be dealt with as the occasion demands. It has long been the pleasing custom of the Venezuelan President to severely discipline those members of any court which rendered a decision against the government and in the case of the Asphalt Company, he calmly dissolved two courts and constituted a new "Supreme Court" consisting of those judges whose opinions had accorded with his wishes. In brief, he has been ruling Venezuela as a tyrant and has broken faith with the United States which protected Venezuela from the vengeance of Great Britain and Germany and he must now be summarily dealt with by this country, or foreign powers must be allowed to interfere.

The President is seeking to impress on callers at the White House the importance he attaches to Commissioner Garfield's recommendation that corporations transacting an interstate business be required to procure federal licenses. Of course such licenses could be procured only on conditions as might be prescribed by Congress and the President and his Commissioner of Corporations believe that this method affords the clue to the desired control of the trusts. As in the case of his recommendation that the Interstate Commerce Commission be granted the power to fix railroad rates "until and unless reversed by the court of review," the President is certain to meet with opposition in Congress and there is no likelihood that any such legislation will be enacted at the present session of Congress, but the vigorous manner in which the President has tackled the problem of trust control seems certain to result in eventually placing on the statutes legislation which will prove efficacious in remedying such evils as may exist. There is, of course, a tendency on the part of Congress to make haste slowly with new propositions but it seems certain that the leaders will become imbued with at least a portion of the President's energy and his sincerity as shown in his application to a solution of this problem.

Death of Mrs. Hibbard.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Hibbard died at the home of her daughter Miss Minnie M. Hibbard in Mt. Jewett last Thursday afternoon, December 22 in her 80th year, after a lingering illness from paralysis.

Elizabeth Main Hibbard was born at Brookfield, Madison county, N. Y., April 11, 1825. In 1846 she was united in marriage with Hezekiah W. Hibbard, and with her husband established a home at Brookfield, where they continued to reside until 1852, when they moved to Belvedere, N. Y., remaining there until 1870, when they moved to Farmers Valley, Pa. In 1889 Mr. and Mrs. Hibbard moved to Tennessee, locating about 60 miles from Chattanooga, where the community was named Hibbard, in their honor. The husband dying at that place in 1890, the widow returned to Pennsylvania, and has since made her home with her daughter.

She is survived by one son, Dr. De Vere Hibbard, of Olean, N. Y., and a daughter, Miss Hibbard of Mt. Jewett.

Funeral services were held on Friday morning at 7:00 o'clock at the residence, Rev. S. R. MacEwen, rector of St. Margaret's church, officiating. On Friday morning the remains were taken to Olean for interment.

A Communication.

The management of the Smethport Lyceum should take more strenuous means to abolish the rowdyism which has become so prevalent at attractions there of late. When ladies are compelled to leave the theatre because of foul language, indulged in by those who call themselves men, it is getting serious and unless something is done the patronage of our pretty theatre, which has been good, will fall off considerable. Only last Saturday evening, and this is not the first time by any means it has taken place, there were men in the audience in such a state of intoxication that they had forgotten all sense of decency and were swearing, smoking, drinking, etc., in fact it was almost unbearable and several ladies were forced to quit the house. Surely someone is at fault and as the writer does not believe the management of the theatre wishes such a condition of affairs he brings it to his attention in this manner.

—A PATRON.

Trackless Trolleys.

Salamanca is receiving cars for its trackless trolley system, says an exchange. The cars are equipped with rubber tires and a flexible trolley is used which allows the cars to run from side to side on the roadway, deflecting either way eight or ten feet. The cars are used successfully in Germany without tracks and are expected to prove a success in Salamanca. However, some experts look for trouble in heavy storms. If the project is a success it will be a great saving for trolley roads, as about $5,000 per mile in construction will be saved.—Ex.

It is said that a Galeton company will start a trackless trolley line in that town next summer.

Advertised Letters.

List of letters remaining in the post office at Smethport for the week ending Dec. 24, 1904:

E. J. Baker, James Granville, Richard Lowers, Alfred Marlin, Ottie Mystyort, O. G. Nourse, T. F. Schlosser, P. Zerbe.

Foreign—Domru Debrau Donu.

Persons calling for these letters please say "advertised." Unclaimed letters are sent to the Dead Letter Office two weeks from date of advertising.

J. C. GALLUP,
Postmaster.

Winter Tourist Tickets.

To various points in Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, Old and New Mexico, Arizona and California are now on sale via the Missouri Pacific Ry. and Iron Mountain route. Standard Pullman and Tourist car service to California. For rates and full information address Jno. R. James, central passenger agent, 314 Bessemer Bldg., Pittsburg, Pa.

My stock of blankets and robes is unusually good this season. The latest styles and the very best quality is to be found in my stock. CHAS. LEMMLER.

Lost—A black and tan hound with white strips on breast and cut on right ear. Finder please notify Holmes & Gilfillan.

The Acme Cushion shoe for ladies is a relief to sore feet and corns. See them at Rubin's exclusive shoe store.

Detroit Jewel Cake Griddles, the only practical pan cake griddle for a gas range. Holmes & Gilfillan.

Go to Charles Lemmler for robes, blankets and bells. No better line can be found.

The finest assortment of mantles and gas globes in town. Holmes & Gilfillan.

C. H. Gleason pays cash for hides and furs.

How Trousers Came to Be Popular.

Trousers came into use for general wear with the French revolution. The gentlemen, the supporters of royalty and sound constitutional principles, wore breeches. The "sans culottes," who denounced every one who wore breeches, finally went beyond their opponents and wore twice as much cloth around their legs—in a word, adopted the modern trousers and made them the badge of a party. Napoleon, who was too thin at one period of his life and too stout at another to look his best in small clothes, nevertheless wore them on state occasions after he had been crowned emperor. His army was the first that wore trousers, and they kept progress step by step with the march of the French legions.

The French trousers were seen in Egypt, in Spain, in Italy, in Germany, in Poland and in Russia, and with them the neat gaiter. People thought that the manner in which a great conquering nation clad its legs was the correct model, and when the trousers wearers marched over the wearers of pigtails and knee breeches at Jena and Auerstadt a decision was given from which the world did not care to appeal.

The Defiant Tomato.

"It has happened to me several times in my life," says Thomas E. Watson in Bethany, "to be arrested, convicted and sentenced to dine with other well dressed convicts, male and female, at a swell dinner—one of those formal functions where solemn flunkies bring you one thing only to eat at a time. When you have pecked (while at that one thing, whatever it may be, solemn flunkies take it away and bring you another plate and some other thing to peck at awhile.

"Sometimes it happens that this one thing is a big, defiant looking tomato. To sit in one's chair, gazing at the last course which the flunky has just put on; to realize that this entire course consists of a solitary tomato, looking fiercely red and raw; to glance along the table and to realize that all the convicts, male and female, have one tomato apiece and are trying to look cheerfully at the convict boss—the host—has overwhelmed me every time it got the chance. The scene is heartrending."

Father and Daughter.

Is there any father relationship in the wide world that lies between father and young daughter? Its only rivals are the ties between mother and son, brother and sister and father and son. To the budding womanhood that skips and prinks to be him the settled man of affairs brings the shy chivalry that, so long as he retains the innocence of his affections resides at his heart. He, he remembers again the gallantries of his youth he quotes poetry, brings out for her amused and affectionate inspection dreams and hopes long laid by in the cedar chests of memory. For her sake he goes again into society, consents to dress for dinner, is careful of his manners and his speech. The graces of life trail into his consciousness with the soft swish of her lengthening skirts.—Harper's Bazar.

A Slave of Prosperity.

Mrs. Porter had married late in life and married a rich man after years of prudent scrimping and much care.

"How does Annabel look?" asked one of Mrs. Porter's old neighbors of another who had been visiting the bride of a year. "Does she appear satisfied?"

"Oh, yes, she's satisfied and happy and all that," said the old friend slowly, "but you know folks can't get wonted to things all of a sudden, and so there will come times now and again when Annabel looks as if the kettle was b'ilin' over and she was tied hand and foot so she couldn't get to the stove. It's not for me to say how she feels."

The True Meaning of "Worry."

The generic and much covering term of "worry" is often the name for a trouble the essential part of which is the "difficulty of making up the mind." Those who can read between the lines discern also in many a case of suicide the same difficulty as the final cause which plunged a weak and distracted intelligence into the ultimate catastrophe. Sooner than continue the struggle with doubts, alternatives and perplexities the mind that cannot be "made up" is overthrown altogether.—London Lancet.

Doubtful.

An old lady took her little grandson to a museum, and when they came to a lion with gaping mouth the boy hung back.

"Don't be afraid, Harold," the lady said. "That lion is stuffed."

"Yes," said Harold, "but maybe he isn't stuffed so full that he couldn't find room for a little boy like me."

Same Old Reason.

"What was it caused the downfall of the Trojans?" asked the man who has forgotten his classics.

"It was the same old story," said the man who was reading the sporting page. "They wouldn't let the horses alone."—Washington Star.

Nothing to Brag Of.

Bluff—I'd have you know, sir, that I'm a self made man. Gruff—Well, I'm sorry for you, but keep it dark and don't think too much about it, and perhaps you'll get along all right.

Electric flash lights, useful the whole year around, from $1.00 up. Holmes & Gilfillan.

McKean County Miner

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.

TERMS:—$1.25 per year, or if paid strictly in advance, $1.00 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Display advertisements published at the rate of $100 per column per annum, payable monthly. Our own position and no deviation from this rule. Extra charge for single insertion.

Reading notices, five cents per line for each insertion.

Legal advertisements, five cents per line for each insertion.

Cards, not exceeding one inch, $5.00 per annum.

Birth, marriage and death notices inserted free.

Executors' and administrators' notices, $3.00 each.

Address all communications to

HARRY L. BACKUS,
Editor and Prop'r.

Smethport, Thursday, Dec. 29, 1904.

Announcement.

FOR SUPERVISOR.

EDITOR MINER:—Please announce that I am a candidate for Supervisor of Keating township, subject to the decision of the Democratic primaries.

MICHAEL MILLER.

THE grand jury in Potter county has found indictments against County Commissioners D. A. Sunderlin and R. H. Young, charging them with illegally reducing the assessments on corporation property in that county and the letting of bridge contracts for exorbitant amounts, assuming that in so doing they wilfully neglected their duty.

A TERRIBLE wind storm swept over practically the whole United States Tuesday and Wednesday. In some sections it was accompanied by a heavy fall of snow. Trains were greatly delayed and much suffering was caused by the cold.

THE editors of Pennsylvania will make an effort to have the obnoxious libel law now on the statute books of the State repealed at the coming session of the legislature. But it is very probable that if any such repeal takes place our benign governor will veto it.—Bradford Era.

WITH this issue we close the forty-first volume of the McKEAN COUNTY MINER, which for four years and eleven months has been under the present management. We have done our best to give our readers a good, newsy, wholesome weekly newspaper and the fact that our subscription list has been and is slowly but steadily increasing without the aid of any canvasser encourages us to believe that our efforts have not been fruitless, and in the coming year we are going to try to make the MINER better than in the past. In this effort our friends and readers can greatly assist us by letting us know of the items of news in their possession. An editor is only human and cannot be everywhere and see everything at one time and therefore cannot get all the news without more or less assistance. We are not complaining, for many have assisted us along this line but we wish more would do so. The MINER will continue in its efforts to merit the liberal patronage it receives and in conclusion we wish you all a Happy New Year.

General Schenck's Last Game.

General Robert E. Schenck was a famous poker player. Just a week before his death he sat around a table in his own house with General Schofield, General Rucker and two United States senators. It was a jack pot. Everybody had passed up to Schenck, who promptly opened it for the limit. One of the senators raised the general raised back, and the senator stayed. Each drew one card. Then the betting began, fast and furious. Finally the senator said:

"General, I have you beaten. I think I have a sure thing, and I don't want to bet any more money on this kind of a hand."

"But I don't think you have me beaten. When I get enough of it I will quit."

So the merry war of chips recommenced. Then the senator renewed his proposition and offered to fatten the stakes by a wager of a dinner for the five gentlemen present. This was accepted. General Schenck had four nines. The senator had a straight flush. But the little dinner for the five never came off. Two days before the evening set for it General Schenck died.

How Much One Should Eat.

One of the much discussed questions of the day on which there are almost as many opinions as individuals is the quantity of food one should eat. Doctors all agree that the majority of people eat too much. Babies from the day of their birth are forced to eat too much, and they grow up with this artificial appetite. The most reasonable estimate yet made is probably that which fixes one-twentieth of the average weight of the body as the average daily quantity required. If you weigh 140 pounds you should consume seven pounds of food. This includes drink as well as solid food. But it is ridiculous to set down a hard and fast rule. Such a quantity might kill some, and there is a case on record of a man wasting away on a diet of seven or eight pounds of food a day. He cut down his diet to three-quarters of a pound of liquid and the same of solid food, and as a result he grew stout and lived to a ripe old age.

Hornets as Fly Killers.

Hornets, or "white faced wasps," have no evil traits or obnoxious features. It is true that they will sometimes sting, but this is only when they are attacked in their own homes or think their young are in danger. The great value of these insects is that they live entirely upon insects, mostly flies, and, in fact, when they are near dwellings their food is generally the common horsefly. They are nature's greatest factors in reducing this serious pest. It is well known that flies carry disease germs, such as those of typhoid fever, and it can thus be seen that hornets have a decidedly sanitary effect as a result of their desirable insectivorous habits.—Field and Stream.

A Second Offense.

The tramp arrested for vagrancy rarely displays any humor, but a New York paper mentions one whose mild waggishness enlivened his own trial.

After the judge had looked the man over he said musingly, "I seem to know your face."

"Yes," the tramp agreed pleasantly; "we were boys together."

"Nonsense!" said the judge, frowning.

"But we were," the tramp said, with mild insistence. "We're about the same age. We must 'a' been boys together."

Peculiar Fact and Superstition.

In Painswick churchyard (between Stroud and Gloucester), in Gloucestershire, England, there are ninety-nine yew trees. Although the hundredth has been planted many times, it is a peculiar fact that it always dies. A local superstition says that "when the hundredth tree lives after it has been planted the world will come to an end."

No Deception.

Miss Goodart—I gave you that quarter because you said you hadn't had anything to eat since yesterday morning, and here I catch you going into a saloon. Weary Willie—Lady, I said I hadn't anything to eat, but I didn't say I wanted anything to eat, did I?—Philadelphia Ledger.

Crippled.

Tramp (piteously)—Please help a cripple, sir.

Kind Old Gent (handing him some money)—Bless me, why, of course! How are you crippled, my poor fellow?

Tramp (pocketing the money)—Financially crippled, sir.—Glasgow Times.

Bony.

David Harum—That wuz a pretty good horse old Ez wuz drivin', eh? Eben Holden—Yes, he had so many good points you could use him for a hat rack.—Pennsylvania Punch Bowl.

An ounce of a man's own wit is worth a ton of other people's.—Sterne.

Cooling Off.

The man who would sit on a cake of ice to cool off would be considered crazy. Yet it is a very common thing for a person heated by exercise to stand in a cool draught, just to cool off. This is the beginning of many a cough which ultimately involves the bronchial tract and the lungs.

For coughs in any stage there is no remedy so valuable as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It cures deep-seated, obstinate coughs, bronchitis, bleeding of the lungs, and like conditions which if neglected or unskillfully treated terminate in consumption.

There is no alcohol in "Golden Medical Discovery," and it is entirely free from opium, cocaine and other narcotics.

Accept no substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery." There is nothing "just as good."

"I took a severe cold which settled in the bronchial tubes," writes Rev. Frank Hay, of Nortonville, Jefferson Co., Kansas, "After trying medicines labeled 'Sure Cures' almost without number, I was led to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I took two bottles and was cured, and have stayed cured.

"When I think of the great pain I had to endure, and the terrible cough I had, it seems almost a miracle that I was so soon relieved.

"That God may spare you many years and abundantly bless you is the prayer of your grateful friend."

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, containing 1008 large pages, is sent *free* on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing *only*. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the book in paper covers or 31 stamps for it in cloth binding. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Christmas and New Year's Greeting to our many friends and customers.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

For enjoying your feasts buy

WALNUTS
MIXED NUTS
NAVEL ORANGES
CANDY

Our stock of fancy groceries was never so complete as now and I solicit a share of your trade.

J. COLEGROVE,
SMETHORT, PA.
Next to Bank.

SOME FOOLISH PEOPLE

Allow a cough to run until it gets beyond the reach of medicine. They often say, "Oh it will wear away," but in most cases it will wear them away. Could they be induced to try the successful medicine called Kemp's Balsam, which is sold on a positive guarantee to cure, they would immediately see the excellent effect after taking the first dose. Price 25c and 50c. Trial size free. At all druggists.

What Shall We Have for Dessert?

The question arises in the family every day. Let us answer it to-day. Try Jell-O, a delicious and healthful dessert. Prepared in two minutes. No boiling, no baking; simply add boiling water and set to cool. Flavors—Lemon, Orange, Raspberry and Strawberry. Get a package at your grocers to-day.

THE BIG STORE

Has the best stock of goods to select your Holiday Presents from, such as

Rich Cut Glass
Beautiful Hand Decorated Japanese Ware
Fine Imported Chinaware
Bric-a-Brac Glassware

Also Boys' and Girls' Skates and Sleds, Air Rifles, Pocket Knives, Carving Sets, Shears and Scissors.

JOHN C. HAMLIN

The elaborate display of

HOLIDAY GOODS

AT McCOY'S DRUG STORE

consisting of all the late novelties such as DAINTY BOOKS, POEMS, PRAYER BOOKS, BIBLES, DIARIES, CALENDARS, beautifully bound.

If you want your heart filled with the love of Christmas don't fail to call in here. For sure SANTA CLAUS has left us the best.

McCOY'S DRUG STORE

Christmas Advice

—For something fine and beautiful buy HAWKE'S CUT GLASS. It is the standard of two continents. Our hand-painted China is done by a professional artist—nothing amatuer about it.

For the gentlemen's stockings—pipes, cards, dice, poker chips, checkers, dominoes, cigar holders, handsome military sets. We keep only the best quality. You cannot get better prices in the city.

Toilet sets, fine perfumes, stationery, gold fish, leather goods, rubber goods. Order cut flowers through us. We can please you.

L. K. HOGARTH

Oldest drug store in the county.
Established 1865 by Hogarth & Seems.

GROCERIES

As you know we have always carried a first-class line of groceries, but perhaps you do not know that we have in our store a fancy stock of groceries, fruits and nuts for the holidays. In this stock you will find all the table delicacies usually found in a large city store.

We also have the best oysters in town and they are always fresh.

Hagberg & Sherburne.

STOP! READ! and REFLECT
And then go to
BROWNELL BROTHERS
Where you will find a carefully and well selected stock of
DRY GOODS, NOTIONS
FURNISHING GOODS,
HATS, CAPS. BOOTS and SHOES
AND A CHOICE LINE OF THE
FINEST GROCERIES
TO BE FOUND IN TOWN AT
ROCK-BOTTOM PRICES.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ring out the old, ring in the new;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

And we say to our many, many friends
A HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR
and here's hoping 1905 may have naught but happiness in store for you.

H. W. RUBIN, SMETHPORT, PENNA.
The Old Reliable Clothier, Furnisher and Merchant Tailor.

Double Purple Trading Stamps

Will be given at store of D. C. Young until January 1, 1905, if stamps and premiums hold out. After that I do not expect to give any more stamps. I only have a few one book premiums and have not succeeded in getting any more. My reason for giving Double Stamps is to enable those who are trying to get a one book premium to get a two book premium for the same price, which is quite an extra expense to me, but will not cost my customers any more. I have several valuable premiums which can be secured by combining books.

My stock of goods is complete in every line and prices are right. Come early, avoid the rush and take your choice.

D. C. YOUNG
SMETHPORT, PA.
December 1, 1904.

PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR

Fall and Winter Clothing

with me. Have an up-to-date and complete line to select from and if you are thinking of getting a

SUIT, OVERCOAT OR TROUSERS

made to order it will pay you to call and inspect my line before going elsewhere. Clothes cleaned and pressed promptly. A trial will convince you.

Satistaction Guaranteed.

G. W. Shillenn,
The Leading Tailor
Chadwick Block. Smethport.

LOOKING FOR HOLIDAY FURNITURE?

"See Sloan First."

His stock is always complete and up-to-date.

Special attention given to out of town customers. When in Bradford look me up.

J. M. SLOAN,
16 Main Street, BRADFORD, PA.

It Isn't Too Early
To Think About
Boys' Clothes
Nor to Look at Clothes for Winter.

For the handsome things and novel things are snapped up quick.

The first comer get the choice of the stock.

IKE SIMONS
46-48 Main St. BRADFORD, The Big Cut Price Store

The Lindholm Company

DRY GOODS CLOAKS FURS CARPETS SHOES

Sweeping Reductions

In Our Cloak Department

ON ALL

Ladies' and Children's Coats,
Ladies' and Misses' Furs,
Children's Fur Sets,
Ladies' Flannel Waists,
Ladies' and Misses Skirts

STANDARD PATTERNS, 10 and 15c.

LET US MAKE THIS A CHINA NEW YEAR.

Redfield has an unusually pleasing line of China this year. Remember there is nothing you could give which would be more pleasing to your mother, wife or sweetheart than a dainty piece of China. His Hand Painted China is very pretty being painted by world renowned artists and is perfect in every detail. He also has a particularly nice line of Dinner Sets in the American and English Ware at remarkably low prices. See his complete assortment of Holiday Goods before it is broken.

REDFIELD'S HARDWARE

McKean County Miner

Entered at the postoffice at Smethport as second-class mail matter.

Smethport, Thursday, Dec. 29, 1904.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

—Happy New Year.

—School opens next Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1905.

—Justice B. L. Knapp is confined to his home by illness.

—Start the New Year with a paid-in-advance subscription to the MINER.

—Fry & Comes advertise a great reduction in all holiday goods this week.

—Roller skating is regaining some of its old-time popularity in surrounding towns.

—The jury disagreed in the Nan Patterson case and she will have to stand trial again.

—New Year greetings are extended by H. W. Rubin in his new advertisement this week.

—The Lindholm Co. is advertising a sweeping reduction in their cloak department this week.

—Blankets are advertised by Holmes & Gilfillan this week and now is the time to buy blankets.

—Bernice, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Crandall, is suffering with scarlatina at their home in Coudersport.

—If a normal training is what you wish, come to Edinboro. Winter term begins Jan. 3d. Tuition Free. John F. Bigler, Prin.

—The masquerade ball at Howe's Hall, East Smethport, Monday night, was largely attended and proved to be a successful affair.

—Educators throughout the State will make a serious effort to shorten the school hours for children from five hours to three and a half hours.—Ex.

—Oulhane, Chace & Weston's Minstrels attracted a few to the Lyceum Theatre last Saturday evening. The show was tame—very tame and the least said the better.

—First Baseman Whitney, who at one time was a member of the Coudersport ball team, will be given a try-out by the Baltimore Eastern League team next season.

—At St. Luke's church on next Sunday the services will be at 8:00, 10:00 and 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Novello's arrangement of the "Adeste Fideles" will be sung at the offertory.

—Mr. Charles Dickerson of Smethport and Miss Nettie Beers of Coryville were united in marriage at Olean on Tuesday afternoon by Rev. C. M. Hall of the First E. church. They will reside in this borough.

—The Armstrong, Johnsonburg's big hotel, will soon be reopened by W. P. McIntyre of Kane.

—Mr. Claude Coulter of Bradford and Miss Nellie Kabor of Davis City were married in Olean on Dec. 23.

—Mrs. George Gerritt entertained the ladies of the Aid Society of St. Elizabeth's church this afternoon.

—The local department of the Johnsonburg Breeze is especially bright and breezy since Tom Harrington commenced to flourish his graphic graphite in the service of that paper.

—Warner's Business College begins again Jan. 2. This is a very successful school and we would advise those wishing a shorthand or commercial course to send to Prof. Warner for full information before going elsewhere.

—A. R. Cory of Coryville met with a painful accident in this borough last Friday afternoon. While going to E. W. Jones' livery he slipped and broke a bone in his ankle. He was removed to his home and medical assistance was given.

—C. A. Snow & Co., Patent Lawyers of Washington, D. C., will send to anyone, free, a pocket Memorandum Book and Diary for 1905 on receipt of actual postage, a two cent stamp. We have one. It is worth several times the money.

—"Yesterday, To-Day and To-Morrow," is the subject for next Sunday evening at the Methodist church. "The Plea of the New Year," is the topic for the morning, when the Lord's Supper will be observed. Love-Feast at ten o'clock.

—Local talent will present the comedy drama, "In Old Virginia," at the Lyceum on Monday evening, Jan. 9. Mr. Chas. Payne, who so ably put on "The Young Wife" a few weeks ago, is the director and has secured a cast of capable persons.

—The leases, plant and franchise of the Manufacturers' Gas company have been sold to the Potter Gas company. While we are glad to see the Promoters clean up nice money on the sale, we are inclined to think that the town will hardly be benefited by the change.—Port Allegany Argus.

—The MINER issues but four pages this week as the editor and force desire a slight respite once a year from the weekly grind. Next week the paper resumes its normal size and renewed efforts will be made to cover its field, better, if possible, than ever before.

—Bradford sustained a heavy loss by fire last Friday night. Two stores occupied by Robert Rosenberg and Isaac Cohn were completely gutted and E. R. Sherman and Miss Sherman, who occupied rooms over Cohn's store, lost all their belongings. The loss is estimated at $100,000; insurance about $30,000.

—It is said that owing to the snappers' strike at Kane merchants are losers to the amount of $2,000 a week.

—The dancing party given at the Lyceum last evening by Misses Mabel Camp, Ruth Forrest and Ida Rubin was a successful social event. The party danced to excellent music, furnished by the Lyceum orchestra and during the evening light refreshments were served.

—Perhaps it will interest the wise guys and would-be humorists who stood in the background and "knocked" at the fire last Friday night, to know that experts in the fire fighting business say that the best possible work was done considering the apparatus at hand to work with.

—According to reports the Erie railroad has decided to abandon its present system of signal towers and install an automatic signal service throughout its entire length from New York to Chicago. Hundreds of operators will thus be thrown out of employment.

—Paul Wendel died at Olean early Saturday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Geo. Dotterweich, at the advanced age of 83 years, death being due to old age. He is survived by six children, J. P. Wendel of Batavia, N. Y.; Mrs. Geo. Dotterweich, Olean, N. Y.; Mrs. John McConeghy, Coudersport; Barney Wendel, Smethport; Mrs. George Root, Hart, Mich., and Mrs. Charles Barrett, Buffalo. The funeral was held at Olean Monday and burial was in Allegany cemetery. Mr. Wendel was a resident of Colegrove, this county, for about 40 years.

Personal Mention.

Rev. P. Cosgrove is a visitor in Mt. Jewett this week.

Miss Octavia Ramer is the guest of friends in Pittsburg.

Will Baker of the Democrat had business in Olean Monday.

Horace King is home from Bucknell University for the holidays.

Paul Green of Salamanca visited his parents in town on Christmas.

Miss Lucile Hinman is spending her vacation with friends in Philadelphia.

Col. M. M. Gillette of Newark, Ohio, is passing the holidays with his family.

Theron Lyle returned Monday from a few days' visit with his parents in Kinzua.

C. D. Bush and family of Lock Haven spent Christmas with friends in this vicinity.

Mrs. Jennie Tracy of Buffalo is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Forsythe.

J. Frank Olmstead of Shelby, Ohio, spent Christmas at the residence of Dr. H. L. McCoy.

Miss Eva Hopper left yesterday for Hornellsville, N. Y., where she will visit relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Goodsell of Salamanca were Christmas visitors at the residence of C. D. Comes.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Mitchell of Parkersburg, W. Va., are passing the holidays with relatives in town.

C. E. McCoy, Jeoffrey Mayo and E. P. Newman are home from Cornell college for the holiday vacation.

Rev. and Mrs. H. E. Bayley and child of Portville, N. Y., visited Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Patterson this week.

Mrs. J. C. Hendee and son, Gordon, of Hornellsville, N. Y., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hopper from Saturday until Wednesday.

Leo L. Herzog returned Saturday from Hot Springs, Ark. He reports his brother, W. O. Herzog, who is taking treatment for rheumatism at that place, as much improved.

I have money to loan on real estate no matter where located, at 4½ and 5 per cent. interest. There is no reason for paying a larger interest than this. If you have real estate that will warrant a loan, write to me about it. All correspondence strictly confidential.
F. Armington Peavey,
Mortgage Broker,
1090 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Notice to Advertisers.

All advertisers should remember that changes of advertisements must reach this office not later than 1 p. m. on Tuesday in order to appear in the following issue of the MINER. We must strictly enforce this rule so it would be well to paste this where the "ad man" can see it.

Desirable Building Lots.

I have several very desirable building lots in this borough which will be sold at reasonable prices for cash or easy payments. For particulars call on or address Harry L. Backus, MINER office.

Try the Acme Cushion shoe for ladies. The easiest shoe made, at Rubin's shoe store.

For Sale.

I will sell my half interest in the Palmer & Vickery livery stable at a reasonable price for cash or approved paper. Inquire of F. J. VICKERY,
Smethport, Pa.

FOR SALE.—Dressed pig pork, weighing from 100 to 175 pounds, for family use. Inquire of D. C. Young.

Notice of Administration.

In the Estate of Maurice A. Hall, deceased. Letters of administration have been duly granted by the Register of Wills upon the estate of Maurice A. Hall, late of Smethport, County of McKean, and State of Pennsylvania, deceased, to Nellie Irene Hall, residing in Smethport, County of McKean, State of Pennsylvania, to whom all persons who are indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and all persons having any legal claim against or demand upon said estate, shall make the same known without delay. NELLIE IRENE HALL,
P. O. Smethport, Pa. Administratrix.
Dated December 28th, 1904.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM

Cleanses and restores the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 50c and $1.00 at Druggists.

Don't Care to Spend Much Money?

And yet you want to dress well for the holidays or buy an Xmas present for a friend. A visit to our store will point the way to the right goods at the right price.

Elegantly Tailored Suits and Overcoats.

The "R. & W." 52-inch Belt Back Rain Proof Coat.

Gloves, Caps, Hats and Umbrellas.

Walk-Over Shoes

Fine Flannel and Madras Shirts.

Magnificent line of Sweaters, Ties, Mufflers and Suspenders in handsome single boxes and many other useful and sensible articles.

WM. MONHEIMER

Fall and Winter Shoes. . . . .

Our stock of Shoes for the Fall and Winter is complete and we are showing a large stock of the best makes.

When in need of footwear of any description gives us a call.

Shoes for Men
Shoes for Women
Shoes for Children
Shoes for Everybody

Anderson & Carlson,

Smethport, Pa.

Repairing a Specialty.

RAILROAD WATCHES

We make a specialty of railroad watches. He uses a special movement containing 21 jewels, one that runs with wonderful accuracy and is built to stand the wear and tear, smash and slam of the railroad business.

KERR

Main St. - Smethport

DENTISTRY.

Modern, scientific and up-to-date.

Painless extraction of teeth. Over 25 years' experience.

atisfaction guaranteed

DR. F. C. PIERCE,
Smethport, Pa.

NELSON & BEARIKLE

The New Livery and Sales Stable.

Connected with St. Elmo Hotel, Fraley St., Kane, Pa.

First-class accommodations for the care of horses and vehicles.

Satisfactory service guaranteed.

INSURANCE.

Life, Fire and Accident written by

W F. SPECHT

SMETHPORT, PA.

In good, reliable companies.

EMIL THAMM,

MANUFACTURER OF

Fine Cigars.

Wholesale and Retail Deale

BANNER PATTERNS 10c & 15c — MONARCH SHIRTS $1.50 & $1.50

FRY & COMES

AFTER CHRISTMAS CLEARING SALE.

Now for a finish of the Christmas stocks. We've had by far the biggest holiday business in our experience and can well afford to be liberal with what's left. We have no inclination to carry goods over from one season to the next. We want each season to have its own new stocks and besides we need every foot of our room.

Reductions will range all the way from

1-4 TO 1-2 OFF REGULAR PRICES THIS WEEK.

Toilet Cases, Work Boxes, Shaving Sets, Pipe Racks, Smokers' Sets, at Half Price	13c to $1.25
Dolls, Fancy China, etc., One-Fourth off	19c to $2.00
Books, Toys, Games, Sleds, etc. Reduced One-Fourth to One-Half	3c to 75c

10c COUNTER—We have put a lot of odds and ends on this table ranging in value up to 25c 10c

FRY & COMES.

A COLD HORSE NEEDS A WARM BLANKET.

We believe we offer here better values for the price than you can get anywhere else. A "look in" at our stock will convince you of that, and as we guarantee every one you take no risk of losing anything by it.

Your order will please us and we will please you.

HOLMES & GILFILLAN

THE GREAT SUPPLY HOUSE

DOUBLE STORE IN HAMILTON BLOCK

PRILL

Has the stock you should see before purchasing elsewhere.

DIAMONDS

Of the finest quality

ONE PRICE TO ALL

Full many a gem of purest ray serene
Lies in our store waiting to be seen;
And as you see, and handle, and admire,
You'll wonder that the prices are not higher.

ONE PRICE TO ALL

WATCHES

All makes and grades at the lowest prices.

Hawkes' Cut Glass,
Genuine Bronzes,
Silk Umbrellas,
Beautiful Opera Glasses

BELL PHONE 473. BELL PHONE 473.

7 MAIN ST. **PRILL** BRADFORD, PA.

Our Christmas Goods

Are now ready. The whole store is overflowing with things appropriate and useful for Christmas gifts.

You will see the latest novelties in Ladies' Neckwear, Belts, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Stamped Linens, Fancy Boxes, Dolls and Notions.

Our stock of Ladies' and Children's Cloaks, Furs, Skirts, Shirt Waists, Corsets, Underwear, etc., is large.

Now is the time to prepare yourself for the winter.

Just received a new line of Kimonas and Dressing Sacques in the popular fleece down goods.

MRS. A. E. HINMAN.

H. C. WELLS

THE LEADING PHARMACIST

SMETHPORT PA.

RAFO

By FRANK H. SWEET

Copyright, 1904, by Frank H. Sweet.

A long line of bending figures passed up the gang plank into the hold of the vessel, then back by another plank to the wharf, where they again connected with the line, forming an endless chain. Each link was a woman, and upon every sloping back was a bunch of bananas.

At the wharf end of the gang plank a man gave a glance at the number of clusters, or "hands," upon the bunches as they passed and then called out their sizes in a singsong "one-half bunch," "one bunch," "two and a half," "two," "one and a half," "one," "one," "two," and another man with a book upon a board placed across a barrel marked them down.

In the hold two men directed the women where to place the fruit. Both of these were "conchs," one a rough, brutal looking fellow, who merely nodded directions and scowled, and the other a laughing, jesting youngster, who gave his orders by springing forward and helping each woman to deposit her bunch in its proper place.

Usually the women thanked him with looks or words, some of them adding, "You good boy, Rafo," or, "Ev'body goin' smile on you if you keep on like dis."

But one link of the human chain there was that did not thank him with looks or words either. She was old and shrunken, with covetous, suspicious eyes, and when Rafo sprang forward she always met him with angry snarlings and would never allow him to touch her bunch. But not a whit difference did it make to Rafo. His song or laugh went on just as light heartedly as ever, and when her portion of the chain came round again he was waiting, as usual, with his ready offer of help, his ready laugh and his friendly eyes.

Just behind the old woman circled a young girl, as young as Rafo, and beautiful in spite of her dark face and bare feet and tattered garments, in spite of

"LET THE LITTLE ONE REST," INTERRUPTED RAFO PLEASANTLY.

her bare shoulders with their burden of bananas. She was always the link in the chain behind old Tamasa, her mother, and Rafo never had time for more than one swift glance into her eyes before Tamasa had deposited her bunch and whirled upon them with her hawk-like eyes.

It was just the same on shore at the Tamasa hut—the two links were always together. Tamasa loved but one thing in the world, her daughter Fana. Nothing was too good for Fana, nothing too high to be hoped for her. So Tamasa's keen eyes studied the youth whose gaze followed the link behind her in the circlings of the endless chain, and the result of the study was made apparent in open encouragement or harsh repudiation.

At the gang plank Tamasa's eyes were almost kindly, for Miguel, the scrutinizer of fruit, received 38 cents a day. But Fana's gaze at that point dropped resolutely to her feet, for Miguel was ill favored and morose.

In the ship's hold Tamasa's good nature changed to black looks, while Fana's gaze rose swiftly and sweetly and happily. Rafo received but 10 cents a day, but he was handsome and blithe hearted and straightforward.

Round and round circled the endless chain, bearing its stream of bananas from the wharf to the hold, and like alternating belts of sunshine and cloud changed the faces of old Tamasa and youthful Fana as they went from gang plank to hold and hold to gang plank.

Under ordinary circumstances the gang plank was ample wide for the loaded chain, but Rafo's unchanging politeness in the hold and Fana's persistent coldness at the plank had darkened more and more the tempestuous countenance of Tamasa until at last, just after they had passed the sullen Miguel, her resentment got the better of her tenderness, and she turned with a sharp reprimand.

But Fana had not yet raised her eyes from her feet, and the consequence of Tamasa's checking the regular motion of the chain brought them together and swayed the bunch of bananas from its delicate balance. Fana tried to right herself, but in vain. A moment later there was a loud splash in the water twenty feet below, accompanied by a scream from Tamasa, who was peering down with wild, frightened eyes.

Miguel was not ten feet away, but his face was sullen with resentment and anger, and he made no move. Then there were a swift rush from the hold and a second splash, and Rafo's head rose to the surface with a merry shout of encouragement.

A rope was dropped from the vessel, and even as Rafo's left arm encircled the girl his right hand shot up and caught it. Then he whispered something to her, and, with quick intuition and courage equal to his own, she placed her arms over his shoulders so as not to impede his movements, and then, hand over hand, he went up the rope until he could swing himself across the gang plank. It was a rare exhibition of nerve and muscle, and the spectators sent up an involuntary shout of appreciation—all except Miguel and Tamasa.

The old woman's face was drawn and tremulous, but the look she cast upon Rafo was as black as ever.

"Come, Fana," she whispered hoarsely, "we will not work any more today. We will go home and rest."

But Fana was leaning against Rafo, smiling happily. Instead of recovering from fright she was perfectly calm. Those few moments coming up the rope, borne by the strong, confident Rafo, had been the happiest of her life. And now, upheld by his encircling arm, she did not care if the whole world—and her mother, too—were looking.

"Fana!" sharply. "You must not stand like that. It is not proper. I will"—

"Let the little one rest," interrupted Rafo pleasantly. "Don't you see how weak she is. And I like it."

"You—like it!" screamed Tamasa, losing control of herself entirely. "You—you nineteen cent man! You grinner and jester! Oh, Miguel, come here!"

But, instead of Miguel, another man, a brisk young Englishman, pushed his way across the gang plank toward them.

"Rafo," he called imperiously. "Here, quick! I want to see you. I'm in a hurry. Oh, there you are," as he saw the group. "Well, I'm sorry to disturb you, but every second is precious to me now. I have an imperative summons to England to settle up an estate and will have to be gone two years or more. I want you to take care of my finca until I return. I've had you work for me, Rafo, and know you are perfectly honest and trustworthy. What do you say? Quick! I must get my things ready and take this boat back. You will know how to cut and ship the bananas, and I will give you $50 a month and pay all the expenses. And, oh, yes"—as he noticed for the first time the figure encircled by Rafo's arm—"this will be a good time for you to get married. There is a comfortable house on the plantation you can live in. What do you say?"

Rafo made him a low bow, showing his teeth. "Si, senor," he answered, "we will be married in twenty minutes, and you can leave in thirty—as soon as you have kissed the bride." And then his merry, infectious laugh rang out so heartily that all had to join in, even Tamasa.

An Observant Barber.

A weary looking young man dropped into an armchair in a downtown barber shop the other day and said sadly, "Shave."

"Yes, sir," replied the knight of the brush and blade, and he began to anoint the young man's face with lather. After a moment's reflection the barber asked, "Will you be offended, sir, if I were to tell you your occupation and a peculiarity of yourself?"

"Why, no," replied the wondering customer. "Let's hear it."

"Well, you are a bookkeeper by profession, and you are left handed."

The young man gasped in astonishment and asked the barber how he knew these facts.

For awhile the barber refused to tell the secret of his power, but he was finally induced to clear up the mystery.

"I know you are a bookkeeper," he said, "because your hair is stained with red and black ink back of your ear, where you have been in the habit of placing your pen. The fact that the marks are back of the left ear show that you are left handed, and the fact that you use red and black ink shows you to be a bookkeeper and not a clerk or a literary man."

The customer left the place marveling much at the simplicity of the methods of Sherlock Holmes.—Baltimore Sun.

Painful Photography.

A resolute young lady of five years found herself before the photographer's camera for the first time, says the Philadelphia Record. She had been posed along with the other members of the family and sat as rigid as a flagstaff, her big black eyes fixed with eagle gaze upon the camera. After the exposure had been made the others moved away, while she sat as still as a mouse and as brave as a lion, with every muscle at highest tension, her legs like two sticks, her hands tightly crossed, her chest up, the veins in her neck fairly bursting. She was so straight as to almost bend the other way. Fearing to hurt her feelings by laughing at the uncompromising rigidity of her pose and her searching stare into the camera, her mamma at length said, "Connie dear, with mamma."

The anxious child replied through her teeth so as not to interfere with her pose, "No; I ain't taken yet." It was some moments before she could be induced to budge, as she had a firm conviction that there would be some visible, tangible sign of the "taking." Great was her surprise a few days later when the proof arrived. She had been "taken" without so much as feeling or even knowing it.

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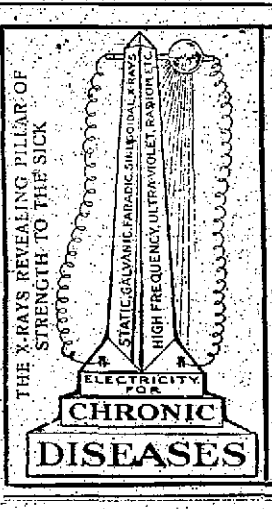
In the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylvania. John Wells Voorhees of Smethport, McKean County, Pennsylvania, a bankrupt under the Act of Congress of July 1, 1898, having applied for a full discharge from all debts provable against his estate under said Act, notice is hereby given to all known creditors and other persons in interest, to appear before the said Court at Pittsburgh, in said District, on the 12th day of January, 1905, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.

WILLIAM T. LINDSEY, Clerk.



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